

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application with Claims 5-12 being withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 has been amended.

Regarding claim 1, the Examiner interprets annular seal 20 of **Grob** (US Patent No. 3293884) to be a supporting member which is press fit into an inner diameter portion of the outer shaft. This is a misinterpretation of the structure of element 20. This element 20 is clearly described in **Grob** as a seal which is located at that position merely to prevent entry of foreign material between the tubular members 13 and 14. The seal 20 is not and cannot be "press fit" in position in a structural manner, and in fact is held in position by a retaining cap and screw. Seals are not supporting members, and nowhere in **Grob** is this seal described to be a structure which could be a supporting member.

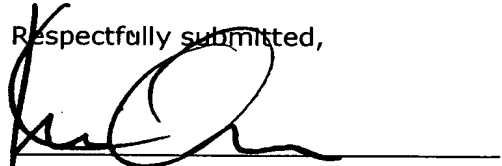
Regarding claims 1-4, the Examiner interprets element 3 of **JP 11-303846** to be a supporting member which is press fit into an inner diameter portion of the outer shaft. This is a misinterpretation of the structure of element 3. This element 3 instead is part of a structure which accommodates the undesirable prior art caulking structure. This prior art caulking structure does not disclose a supporting member which is press fitable into an inner diameter of an outer shaft. The novel structure of the present invention eliminates the need for the undesirable prior art caulking structure.

Applicant asserts that any visual resemblance in the patent drawings of element 20 of **Grob** and/or element 3 of **JP 11-303846** has apparently mislead the Examiner regarding the interpretation of those elements as being press fitable supporting members as presently claimed.

CONCLUSION

Having obviated the Examiner's objections, applicant hereby seeks an early indication of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

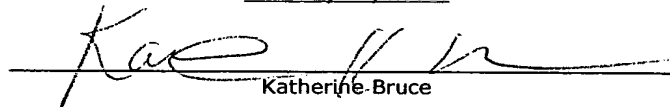


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Katherine Bruce